

**City of Tampa  
Human Rights Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2017**

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., at the Development Services Center, 1400 N. Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor SE Conference Room, Tampa, Florida 33607.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Anthony Carswell  
Caine Kreimendahl

John Perry  
Anna Ramos

Elias Vazquez

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Parker Homans, Amy Mandel, Reginald Tim

**CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rebecca Cortes  
Margarita Gonzalez

Patricia Newton

**GUEST:**

Capt. Ashley Roberts, City of Tampa Police Department

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Chairman, Anthony Carswell, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. and called the roll.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December 13, 2016)**

The minutes for December 13, 2016 were reviewed by members present. A **motion** was made by E. Vazquez, **seconded** by J. Perry to accept the minutes as presented, and the **motion passed** unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None at this time

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**Supervisor's Report**

P. Newton provided an update on the status of the office, along with case processing. She informed the Board that 14 housing cases were closed and 10 cases remain open; seven EEOC cases were closed with four cases being deferred and two remain open. The Office closed one public accommodations complaint with one remaining open and two employment cases under the City of Tampa Human Rights Ordinance were closed and one remains open.

P. Newton announced that M. Gonzalez will be retiring after 29 years of stellar public service to the citizens of Tampa. Her last day is March 24, 2017, and the Board was invited to her retirement celebration scheduled for that day from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at City Hall (TMOB), 306 E. Jackson Street, 6e conference room, Tampa, FL. P. Newton shared the many accomplishments of M. Gonzalez. The Chairman thanked M. Gonzalez for her service to the board and its members. M. Gonzalez thanked the board members for their support to the Tampa Office of Human Rights and for taking time to volunteer as a Board member.

P. Newton informed the Board that two people were hired for the vacant positions of Human Rights Investigator, previously held by Karen Sinnreich and Deborah Seigler. The two new hires will start on March 27, 2017. A third investigator to replace M. Gonzalez will start on April 10, 2017. The Chairman asked P. Newton if the Tampa Office of Human Rights' structure will remain the same. P. Newton stated that all three hires will be Human Rights Investigators. The ADA Disability Rights Coordinator position is under review by the Chief of Staff.

P. Newton continued with the following updates:

- She was the keynote speaker at the United for Human Rights Black History Month program in Clearwater, FL at the Church of Scientology's Fort Harrison Building. There were more than 300 people in attendance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Status of Business Cards for Board Members**

The Chairman stated a request has been to Thomas Snelling, Director of Planning and Development to have created, what is being called for a lack of a better name, business cards or a tool to communicate to the community about the Human Rights Board and the Office. The floor was opened for suggestions and it was proposed that a social media tag be on the rack card or perhaps a QR code. The Chairman stated that no action was taken on past recommendations made by the Board, but he would like for people to know that the Board exists.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board Terms**

The Chairman stated that the following Board terms expire on May 30, 2017: Parker Homans, Amy Mandel, Anna Ramos, Elias Vazquez, and Reginald Tim. As of March 14, 2017, the term for Clinton Paris, Hearing Officer expires. P. Newton contacted each board member, and A. Ramos agreed to serve another term; P. Homans, A. Mandel and C. Paris have not indicated to serve another term. E. Vazquez will end his term; however, he invited Captain Ashley Roberts to be the representative of the Law Enforcement field. Reginald Tim has served the maximum capacity of three consecutive terms and will no longer represent the Industrial Management field. Mayor Buckhorn forwarded a thank you letter to R Tim, which the Chairman read to honor R. Tim's service to the citizens of Tampa.

The Chairman opened the floor to E. Vazquez who thanked the board and staff for their support; then the Chairman acknowledged Captain Roberts who stated that she has been with the City of Tampa 18 years and is currently working in District 1. The Chairman extended a welcome to her from the board.

It was reported that Mayor Buckhorn has appointed and City Council has approved Sylvia Hubbard as a new Board member in the field of "Other", and her installation process has begun.

The Chairman requested that education/training for the Board continue and suggested that it occur during the June meeting or one to two times per year during another meeting or offsite. P. Newton reminded the Board that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Tampa Bay Fair Housing Symposium, which the City of Tampa is hosting, will be held on Friday, April 21, 2017. The Board was invited to join Mayor Buckhorn, who will open the event.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by E. Vazquez, seconded by A. Ramos, and the **motion passed** unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted